



Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

**131st Annual General Meeting
Held on Saturday 13th April 2024**

at St Peter's, Blaenavon

Minutes of the 131st Annual General Meeting

The meeting commenced at 17.30 hrs.

The Chairman, Mrs Helen Phillips, welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended thanks to Reverend Tony Hodges for taking the service, Craig Brown for playing the organ, Rev. Jenny Mole for leading the prayers, to Blaenavon for hosting the meeting and for letting us in early to allow a quarter peal attempt and to members of the church who helped with the bring-and-share tea. 27 people who were in attendance signed the register.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Marie Carson, Sam Emmett, Hilary Evans, Richard Hall, Bob Hardy, Mary Hardy, Anne Hayman, Barry Hayman, Andrew John, Jane Dumont Jones, Bryan Kear, Margot and Mark Lewis, Helen, Jonathan and Tom Lewis, Helen Millard, Pat and David Moore, Julian Parker, Pip Penney, Gwyn Sayce, Chris and Tim Taylor, Matthew, Debbie, Adam and Catherine Turner, John Vesey and Lynne Workman.

2) Remembrance of Members lost through death

Rev. Jenny Mole led Prayers in Remembrance of recently deceased members during the service. These were Philip Evans, Jack Hoskins, Nevil James, Graham Lockley, Cathy Pearcy and Richard Pressland.

3) Minutes of the 130th AGM

Helen noted that a copy of the 2023 minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting. No corrections were noted and they were proposed for acceptance by Simon Lockhart, seconded by Andy Lingard and forwarded to the Chairman for signature.

4) Matters arising from the Minutes:

None

5) Officers' Reports

a) Master's Report

The Master, Harriet Moncrieff, referred to her report in the published 2023 Annual Report. The Chairman, Helen Phillips thanked all the volunteers who run the Association and in particular those who had stood down in the last year: Mark Bennett (12-bell practice), Peter Bennett (Monmouth Chairman), Hilary Evans (Llandaff Secretary), Martin Gilbert (Monmouth Chairman), Anne Hayman (Monmouth Secretary), Chris Kipling (Llandaff Chairman), Tim Taylor (Association Secretary), Debbie Turner (Monmouth

Master) and Perry Turner (Association Independent Examiner). Helen presented or mailed appreciation cards to thank those who are retiring for their contributions.

b) Secretary's Report

Helen reported that Tim, the General Secretary, was sorry not to be with us but referred to his report in the 2023 Annual Report. He sent an update on the Association library: Llandaff Cathedral had asked that the library vacate the Llandaff Cathedral Chapter House archive after 30 years. A temporary home has been secured at St Woolos until the end of July 2024. Llandaff Cathedral Ringers have kindly offered to take over the books of general interest and the bound copies of the Ringing Worlds (dating back to 1920) and Bell News and will make these available to the wider Association (confirmed in writing 9th March 2024). Helen Phillips, Andrew and Meriel Gainsbury and Anne Hayman are reducing the bulk of the remainder of the archive at St Woolos according to guidance from the Church in Wales on record-keeping and are focussing on retaining items pertaining to the history of the Association, its towers and ringers (minutes, treasurers reports, social history etc). Tim has decided to stand down as Association General Secretary and extends his thanks for the committee's support.

c) Treasurers' Report

Andrew and Meriel reminded members that the Accounts had been published in the Annual Report and on the LMDACBR website. Helen Phillips proposed that these accounts were accepted, seconded by Yvonne John, and this was passed without dissent.

Andrew gave a presentation on the Association finances including its funds, expenditure, 2024 budget and the financial support available from the Association. He also gave a vote of thanks to the Belfry Maintenance Group, for the work they are undertaking. Fred Jackson asked how the funding presentation would be communicated to the Association. Andrew responded that it will be circulated to Tower Correspondents and via the Branch Newsletter.

6) Election of Officers

- a) **Master**, Harriet Moncrieff, **Chairman**, Helen Phillips, **Treasurers**, Meriel and Andrew Gainsbury, **BRF Trustees**, Barry Hayman, Steve Dutfield, **Central Council Representatives**, Helen Phillips and Matthew Turner and **Independent Examiner** (1 of 2) David Slater, were all willing to stand again and were proposed by Joy Kipling, seconded by Nick Jones. There were no other proposals from the floor.
- b) **General Secretary** Dr Tim Taylor was standing down and Pauline Morris was proposed by Helen Phillips and seconded by Simon Lockart. There were no other proposals from the floor.
- c) **PRO** – This role has not been filled for several years and no volunteer is forthcoming at present so this role remains vacant. Helen Phillips asked anybody with marketing skills to get in touch.
- d) **Central Council Representatives** Matthew Turner and Helen Phillips will stand again. A third member may be elected in due course.
- e) **Independent Examiners** Perry Turner is standing down. A second examiner is required but no one has come forward as yet. As the position does not need to be filled until January 2025 the nominee will be proposed in due course by the Monmouth Branch Committee.

- f) Helen extended thanks to the Officers and Volunteers who were willing to stand again which is much appreciated. She also noted that the Association Librarian, Pat Moore, is standing down and thanked her for her contributions.

7) Recruitment and Training

Helen Phillips gave a presentation on the work that the Recruitment and Retention Group has been doing over the last year. Helen explained that the aim of the group aligns with that of the CCCBR's 2030 plan. The Association has a number of young ringers and is planning to enter the Ringing World National Youth Contest on 6th July 2024 in London. A parental guide has been produced by the Association which has been requested for use by a number of other Associations. This aims to promote the positive aspects of ringing to the parents of potential recruits, so they are positively disposed towards their children learning to ring.

Helen offered to run a half-day Central Council Workshop on recruitment if there was sufficient interest from members. No date or format was agreed

8) Central Council (CCCBR) Business

Helen Phillips reported that the key focus of the Central Council is on the Ringing 2030 project, which is about what we would like ringing to be like in 2030, what we need to change in order to get there and how we make sure we effect that change.

The most significant threat is in the demographic of our ringers, with two thirds of our members over the age of 60, and it takes at least 5 years to train a ringer to surprise major standard or beyond – we are facing a significant reduction in numbers over the next 5-10 years. Further information can be found on the Central Council website:

<https://cccbbr.org.uk/ringing-2030/>

9) Association Events 2024-25

- a) It was planned to repeat the **Quiz night**, this year to be hosted again by St Woolos. The date set is Friday 25th October at St John's Church, Newport.
- b) Andy Lingard reminded everyone that the CCCBR had suggested there be ringing on the 6th June at 6.30 to Commemorate 80 years since D-Day.
- c) Caldicot have an open day on the 14th July which is going to include a summer fair and a Mini Ring.
- d) There is currently no appetite for an All-Wales Ringing competition but there could be a social event in a central location which will include ringing. No fixed plans have been made for this as yet and it probably will not be held in 2024.
- e) The Pitman Trophy will be held after the Branch Striking Competitions.

10) Any Other Business

Dr Fred Jackson thanked the BRF on behalf of Llandaff Cathedral for providing the funds for the work on the Cathedral's 6th bell that was given by the Association 30 years ago.

The meeting closed at 18.45 hours.

Harriet Moncrieff (Association Master) and Pauline Morris (Honorary Secretary Elect)

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Date: